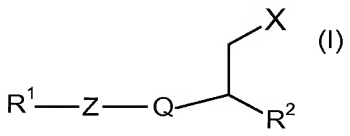
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^1 is optionally substituted $-C_{4-12}$ alkyl, $-C_{2-10}$alkylcycloalkyl, C_{2-6}alkylheterocycloalkyl, $-C_{2-6}$alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that R^2 in not pyridinyl;

Z is a bond, CH_2, O, S, SO, SO_2, NR^4, OCR^4R^5 or CR^4R^5O; or Z, R^1 and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X is COR^3;

R^2 is $CONH_2$, CO_2H, CO_2R^7, SO_2R^7 or $SO_2NR^8R^9$, _____ _____ ~~with the proviso~~ **provided** that R^2 is not CO_2R^7, when X is $CONH_2$;

R^3 is OR^6 or NR^8R^9;

R^4 and R^5 each independently is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl;

R^6 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^7 is C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^8 and R^9 each independently is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; or R^8 and R^9 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; or

physiologically functional derivatives thereof,

. _____ ~~proviso~~ **provided** that formula (I) compounds are not:

[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;

butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or

butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

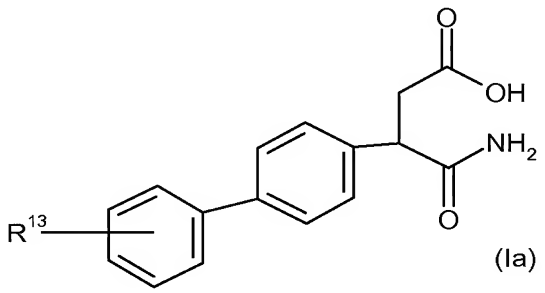
~~with the proviso~~ **further provided** that when R^1 is C_{4-12}alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH_2, or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is CO_2H and R^2 represents $CONH_2$.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is an unsubstituted phenyl.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z represents a bond or O.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein R^{13} is H, halo, CF_3, $-OCF_3$, cyano, nitro, OR^{14}, SR^{15} or COR^{16}; and R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} independently are H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl;
or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

6. (Cancelled)

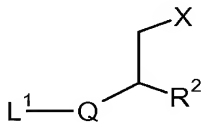
7. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from or susceptible to an inflammatory disease or an autoimmune disorder which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A process for ~~the~~ preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, ~~which~~ **wherein the** process comprises:

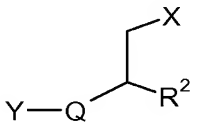
(A) ~~for~~ preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is a bond and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, **by** reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^2, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L^1 is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^1; or

(B) (i) ~~for~~ preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is O, S, SO, SO_2, NR^4 or OCR^4R^5, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^2, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y is OH, SH, NHR^4 or $HOCR^4R^5$, with a compound of formula (IV):

$$R^1L^2 \qquad \text{(IV)}$$

wherein R^1 is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^2 represents a leaving group; and

(ii) where**in** Y is –SH, optionally followed by ~~oxidation~~ **oxidizing the Y group** to the corresponding SO or SO_2 **group** as required; or

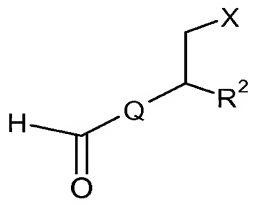
(C) ~~for~~ preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is $-CR^4R^5O-$, by reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein Y is –OH, with a compound of formula (V):

$$R^1CR^4R^5L^3 \qquad \text{(V)}$$

wherein R^1 R^4, R^5 are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^3 represents a leaving group; or

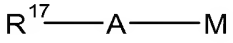
(D) ~~for~~ preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is CH_2 and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, **by** reacting

_____(i) a compound of formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein Q, X and R^2 are as defined above, with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, which is a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, R^{17} is H or one or more substituents and M is a metal and

_____(ii) ~~reduction and elimination~~ **reducing and eliminating** ~~of the~~ **a** resultant **or product** alcohol **formed form step (i)**; **and,** ~~if necessary,~~

(E) ~~deprotection~~ **optionally deprotecting** ~~of a protected form of~~ compounds of formula (I) **with a protecting group**.